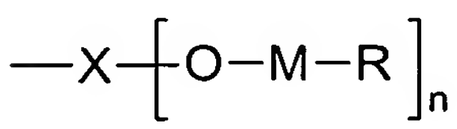
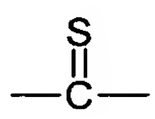
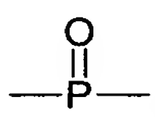
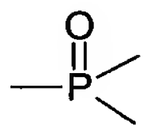
Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

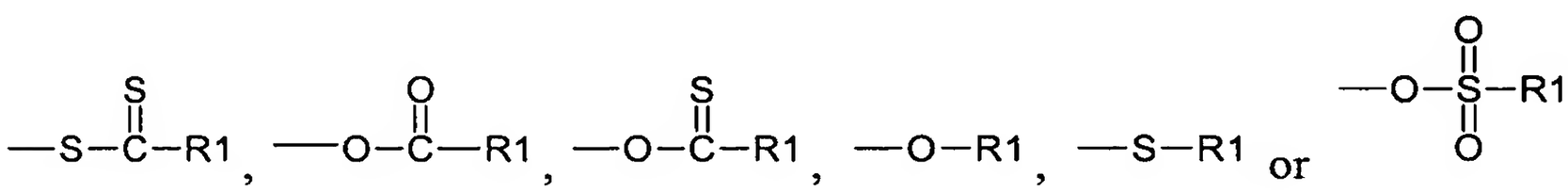
1. (Currently Amended) An antifouling coating composition comprising

-- 20-100% by weight, calculated on the total amount of film-forming components, of a film-forming polymer (A) having an acrylic backbone bearing at least one terminal group of the formula:



wherein X represents  ,  ,  or 

M is a metal of Group Ib, IIa, IIb, IIIa, IIIb, IVa, IVb, Va, VIa, VIb, VIIa, and VIII of the Periodic Table with a valency of 2 or more and a degree of ionisation less than that of the alkali metals metal; n is an integer of 1 to 2; R represents an organic residue selected from

 ; and R1 is a monovalent organic residue, and

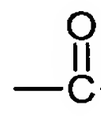
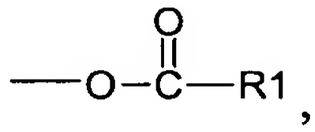
80-0% by weight, calculated on the total amount of film-forming components, of polymer (B) is selected from polymers which are free of $-X-[O-M-R]_n$ terminal groups but which are reactive in water, slightly water-soluble, water-sensitive, or insoluble in water.

a copper-based biocide for aquatic organisms

~~characterised in that that~~wherein the antifouling coating composition is substantially free of any biocidal zinc compounds and substantially free of rosin, and ~~in that~~ the copper-

based biocide has a metallic copper content below 2 % by weight, based on the total weight of the copper-based biocide.

2. (Currently Amended) The antifouling coating composition according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~wherein M is Cu, Zn, or Te.

3. (Currently Amended) The antifouling coating composition according to claim 1~~ or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the film-forming polymer (A) is an acrylic polymer in which X represents  , M is copper and R represents  , wherein R1 is a monovalent organic residue.

4. (Currently Amended) The antifouling coating composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the copper-based biocide for aquatic organisms comprises cuprous oxide having a metallic copper content below 2 % by weight, based on the total weight of the cuprous oxide.

5. (Currently Amended) The antifouling coating composition according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the cuprous oxide has a metallic copper content below 1% by weight, based on the total weight of the cuprous oxide.

6. (Currently Amended) The antifouling coating composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the copper-based biocide for aquatic organisms comprises copper pyrithione.

7. (Currently Amended) The antifouling coating composition according to claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~wherein the copper-based biocide for aquatic organisms comprises a combination of cuprous oxide having a metallic copper content below 2 % by weight, based on the total weight of the cuprous oxide and copper pyrithione.

8. (Currently Amended) The antifouling coating composition according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the film-forming polymer (A) is an acrylic polymer in which X represents $-\overset{O}{\overset{\|}{C}}-$, M is copper and R is the residue of an organic monobasic carboxylic acid which has a boiling point greater than 115°C and an acid value between 50 and 950 mgKOH/gramme, wherein the copper-based biocide for aquatic organisms comprises a combination of cuprous oxide having a metallic copper content below 2 % by weight, based on the total weight of the cuprous oxide and copper pyrithione..

9. (Currently Amended) A process for protecting a man-made structure immersed in a fouling aquatic environment wherein the structure is coated with an antifouling coating composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1.

10. (Original) The process of claim 9, wherein the aquatic environment is a low salinity aquatic environment.

11. (Currently Amended) A man-made structure immersed in ~~an~~ a fouling aquatic environment coated with a coating composition according ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~to claim 1.

12. (Original) The man-made structure of claim 11 which is immersed in a low-salinity aquatic environment.

13. (Original) The man-made structure of claim 11 wherein the structure is immersed in a low-salinity aquatic environment for part of its life and in a saline aquatic environment for part of its life.